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**Special Session (SS22) on:**

## ***Human Interaction within Fisheries and Marine Resources***

### **Organiser:**

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### **The aim and scope of the special session:**

Coastal areas of South Asia and South East Asia hosts a vast number of people associated to complex human interactions within fisheries and marine resources resulting in multiple sociological frames and logistics for some of their most basic daily needs. Surrounded by the Indian Ocean, one of the lesser known oceanic realms, this region is still poorly known in terms of fishing resources, stock management, regulation and definition of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) and allotment of resources from the sea to coastal and urban populations including some of the most populated cities in the World.

Knowledge of fishing efforts and stock management is surely a priority for a basic goal: keeping fisheries sustainable and prices affordable. However, there is absolutely no way in which this can be achieved without concerted efforts in dealing with three basic questions: a) Do we really know how much do we fish and how are we fishing? b) Are we putting aside enough areas for MPA's? c) Is the use of marine living resources for tourism being adequately dealt with?, and d) Is marine and fisheries policies the more adequate to the sustainable development of people and places of the coastal areas.

It is more or less consensual that a value of 10% or so should be put aside for MPA's on a global basis. In fact, the major problem affecting today's fisheries in the World is not so much what we catch but more often how we fish. Stocks are being depleted on a global scale and thus affecting both local to national economies while implying huge losses of jobs, small to large companies and even causing mass migrations either within or between countries. SE Asia and India are surely highly affected by this although the Indian Ocean countries do have yet the chance to exploit their resources in a sustainable manner while also increasing new forms of revenue from their living seas: tourism and aquaculture.

We invite researchers from all over the World to submit their abstracts to this special session since we do think that this is indeed a multidisciplinary problem to which we would surely open discussions and presentations on a multidisciplinary level for biologists, ecologists, managers, economists, sociologists, and fisheries experts.

In fact, some basic questions at regional, national and international level, should be urgently addressed regarding marine resources. These do not know political frontiers and are exploited in diverse manners throughout the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean. Therefore, we should be well aware that every decision made at a local level, even if poorly noticeable, will inevitably lead to consequences elsewhere.

Are fisheries sustainable everywhere? Are bans on a given number of species effective if at all? Is the industry of marine tourism having an impact on a regional level? Is it worthwhile to replace fishing areas by MPA's? What is the impact of these policies in the sustainable development of people and places of coastal areas?

The seas are now better understood albeit widely unknown. Their sustainable use is certainly a priority for numerous coastal countries from all SE Asia and certainly for India. Goa is home for the CSIR–National Institute of Oceanography and as such has an increased responsibility for marine research not only for India but also for a large part of the Indian Ocean and this is indeed an obvious reason to propose this special session.

India as well as most S and SE Asia countries, is surrounded by a largely unknown ocean that represents, especially on its eastern borders with the Pacific, the most complex and diverse area of Earth. Discussing and evaluating the sustainable use of marine living resources for such a vastly important part of our World is certainly a major contribution for this Congress, and a promising challenge for all participants.

**SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT**